

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

## Witness Statement of

FWY

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FWY. My date of birth is 1954. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I was in Quarriers, foster care and Urquhart House when I was a child, but I am not sure about dates or the length of time I stayed in each place. When you're a child you don't think about time. It felt like being stuck in a loop like the film Groundhog Day.

**Life before being taken into care**

3. I was born in Bridge of Weir and then lived in London with my mother, my father, and my three younger brothers, and FEN. My parents split up and my mother brought me and back to Scotland to live. and FEN stayed with my father for a while. I don't remember my father and don't know if he's still alive. My mother died in 1975.
4. My mother had another child, when we were back in Scotland. He was adopted by a nurse in the hospital my mum went into so I never met him. got in contact with me out of the blue years later when we were adults.
5. My mum, and I lived with my grandparents in Bridge of Weir. is about two years younger than me. I went to Bridge of Weir Primary School. My mum had a drink problem and had a falling out with my granny and grandpa because she was

always going out drinking and leaving [REDACTED] and me. We then went with my mum to stay with an aunt and uncle in Paisley. I remember a social worker came and introduced my brother FEN [REDACTED] to us. I didn't know him. I remember seeing him standing there with his wee duffle coat on. He's the youngest of the four of us and is about four or five years younger than I am. I can only assume that my father couldn't cope with him. I discovered years later that my other brother, [REDACTED] had autism and ended up in a place in Aberdeen.

6. My mum, [REDACTED] FEN [REDACTED] and I went back to stay with my grandparents in Bridge of Weir. I thought everything was good there. We didn't go without anything and I was happy. I remember FEN [REDACTED] and I were up playing at the dam one day and we made a raft, which sank, and my brand new shoes got soaked. I thought I was going to get a hiding when I got home. A social worker, Miss Morgan, appeared at our house that night and we were told that she was taking the three of us away. This was the first we knew about it. We had never met her before or been told about Quarriers. Miss Morgan then took us in a car to Quarriers. My mum didn't come with us. We went with nothing but the clothes on our back. I remember my mum telling us not to worry because we wouldn't be there long as she'd get a house and get us out.
7. I don't know why we were taken to Quarriers. Nobody told us. There were quite a few of us living with my gran and grandpa. As well as my mum and the three of us, there were three cousins, two aunts and an uncle. I don't know if the social work thought it was overcrowded. I just know that I was happy there.
8. I think it was around 1959 when I went into Quarriers but can't be sure about this. I know it was in the summertime.

#### **Quarriers, Bridge of Weir**

9. I would have been around five when I went to Quarriers. The three of us lived in Cottage 35 with zQGV-QJA [REDACTED]. There were a few other kids there. The only thing I remember about my first day is that Mrs zQJA [REDACTED] gave me the slipper for getting

out of bed. I couldn't understand why I was in bed at 7:00 pm on a summer's night, so I got up. It was just a slipper on my backside. That's the only time it happened. I didn't see anybody else getting hit. I did see somebody get the cane once at school but that was it. Quarriers was fine. Basically we went to school and then went out to play. The only thing that happened there which was wrong was that when I was leaving they didn't let me take away the toy my mum had given me for my birthday. My mum didn't visit often but she came to see me on my birthday and gave me a wind-up toy that played nursery rhymes. I don't know how long I was in Quarriers. It might have been a year or a bit longer.

10. Miss Morgan appeared again and took me, [REDACTED] and FEN away from Quarriers. We hadn't seen her since the day she took us there. I remember asking for that toy and they wouldn't give me it.

**Mr and Mrs FWZ-JCT foster carers – [REDACTED] Brechin**

11. Miss Morgan took us up to Brechin on a train. I don't remember being told by anybody that we were leaving Quarriers and going to foster care. We hadn't met the foster carers before. I don't know why it was decided that we were to live so far away from our family. We had no connection whatsoever with Brechin. The FWZ-JCT twenty-one-year old son had died and that's why they decided to foster. We were their first foster children. There were no other children living with them.
12. I have no idea how old the FWZ-JCT were. I don't think they'd still be alive now. I think Mr FWZ was a farmhand. I don't know if Mrs JCT worked. She was always there when I got back home from school. We didn't meet any of the FWZ-JCT family. I only remember being around those two.
13. The FWZ-JCT house was in the town. The houses on the street had a house downstairs and one upstairs. The FWZ-JCT lived in an upstairs one. You went up the stairs as you came in the front door. The kitchen was on your right, the bathroom was next on the right and the living-room was on the left. The two bedrooms were

facing you as you came upstairs. The one I shared with my brothers was on the right and the FWZ-JCT was on the left.

### **Routine in foster care**

14. I got up in the morning, had breakfast and then went to school. I got my lunch at school. I didn't get out to play after school. I think all I did in the evening was watch TV, although the only programme I ever remember watching is *Francie and Josie*. I don't remember having comics to read or being given sweets, pocket money or treats. I couldn't just go and help myself to something from the fridge. It never felt like it was my home.
15. I never had any friends over to the house. I sometimes got to play football outside because one of the boys in the street had a ball. We didn't have one. I went to the cinema once and saw *Zulu*. We didn't get taken on holiday or go on day trips to the beach or anything like that.
16. I don't remember Christmas or my birthday being celebrated. I remember they gave us Christmas presents one time on a bright summer's day because we had been good. The presents must have been there since the Christmas before. That's the only time they gave us toys. I can't remember what I got. I just know that they were definitely Christmas presents and we got them in the summer because we had been good.

### *Food*

17. We were fed well but you had to eat everything that was put in front of you. The worst thing was on a Sunday when they gave us oatcakes and cheese and wouldn't let us drink anything with it. It was actually quite hard to eat without having a drink. I'd put it my pockets and pretend I'd eaten it.



*School*

18. I went to Brechin Primary School. I can't remember if [REDACTED] went there with me. I just remember walking there and back on my own. I don't know how far it was but I remember walking home in the dark.
19. I didn't really have any friends at school. I had buck teeth and my speech was bad because I had an English accent and the other kids used to make a fool of me, so I never said much. They used to get me to say, "How now, brown cow". The school got somebody to give me elocution lessons to help me speak better.
20. I don't know if the staff at the school knew I was in foster care. I was fed and clothed well so I probably looked as if I was well cared for. Teachers didn't take the same interest in kids' welfare then as they do now. Things were very different in those days.

*Visits*

21. I never saw any of my family and didn't get letters or phone calls. I never saw Miss Morgan again until after I had left.

*Running away*

22. I ran away once and took [REDACTED] and FEN [REDACTED] with me. I don't remember where we went. We stayed out all night and were hungry in the morning. [REDACTED] said one of his pals stayed close so we went there for something to eat. The boys' parents called the police and they came and took us back. Nobody asked us why we had run away.
23. Another time I ran away, FEN [REDACTED] told Mrs JCT [REDACTED] that I'd just run out the front door and she came running after me. She chased me and shouted to some boys who were up ahead to get a hold of me. They grabbed me and held me until she caught up. She then dragged me back to the house.

**Abuse in foster care**

24. The **FWZ-JCT** son had been handicapped and in a wheelchair but he achieved everything and we just couldn't live up to his standards. He had passed all his 'O' Levels and Highers and we were three dumplings that couldn't do anything. They had lost their only son and they made it clear to us that we were not good enough. They were always telling us that we were useless and no good. We were made to feel like lowlife. There was never any love or affection from any of them.
25. Mrs **JCT** was more verbally abusive than physical. I don't remember if she hit me. She might have done. Mr **FWZ** used to hit me with a belt across the thighs and on the back of the legs. It was one of those thick leather belts used for sharpening razors. I can't remember how often I was hit.
26. Mrs **JCT** locked me in my bedroom as a punishment. Some boys tried to bully me on my way home from school one day and I ended up fighting with them. I learnt early on how to stand on my own two feet. I was late getting home from school that day and I told Mrs **JCT** that these boys had tried to bully me. She didn't believe me. She called me a liar and locked me in my bedroom all night without any food. This was my punishment for supposedly telling lies.
27. Another punishment I was given was to stand in a corner in the hallway through the night. I don't know how that came about. I was probably just behaving the way children do. I wasn't allowed to go to bed. I had to stand there all night. I remember feeling a bit peckish and I went to the fridge and ate a wee bit of trifle. I went back and stood in the corner, then I thought that I should go back to square it up a wee bit to cover my tracks and I ended up eating the whole thing. I got into bother when they discovered in the morning that I'd eaten it all but I don't remember what my punishment was. I don't know if being made to stand in a corner was something that happened more than once. I think I just remember this occasion because I ate the whole trifle.

### *Siblings*

28. I never saw [REDACTED] or FEN get hit, but I think [REDACTED] would have been hit. I don't think FEN ever got hit. [REDACTED] used to bite his nails so the FWZ-JCT put bandages on his hands to stop him. He was obviously scared and that's why he was biting his nails. He didn't like vegetables and they couldn't understand that. They used to try and force him to eat them. They thought [REDACTED] wasn't right in the head so they took him to see a psychiatrist in Aberdeen. The psychiatrist said there was nothing wrong with him but he got taken away and put into a children's home in Thornliebank, Glasgow. I didn't see him again until later when he came to live with us in Urquhart House.

### **Leaving foster care**

29. Mr FWZ [REDACTED] was washing me one night in the sink and he said that I was ungrateful and told me to get out of the house. I don't remember if that was the usual routine for getting us washed. This one time just sticks in my mind because of what happened. I think it was the evening after I had been made to stand in the corner and had eaten the whole trifle. I was just in my underpants and vest and he told me to go outside. I went to go outside and then he pushed me back upstairs. He was ranting and raving at me and I turned round and either pushed or kicked him and he went down all the stairs. He had just had his appendix out and Mrs JCT [REDACTED] had to get an ambulance for him.
30. Mrs JCT [REDACTED] then locked me in the bedroom and told me that I was going to get the hiding of my life when Mr FWZ [REDACTED] got home from hospital. I decided that I wasn't going to wait for that so I escaped out the window and ran away. I just kept running and running. It must have been the summer because I remember eating strawberries in the fields. I went up onto the road to Aboyne and a lorry driver picked me up and took me to a police station somewhere. The police then took me to Brechin Police Station where a police doctor was brought in and he examined me and took photographs of me. I had recently been hit with the leather belt and had marks on my

legs. I told the doctor that the marks were from being hit with a belt by Mr FWZ I don't know if anything ever happened to Mr FWZ as a result of this.

31. I remember sitting in a kind of wee booth in the police station and I heard Mrs JCT coming in with FEN She asked the sergeant at the desk if they had found me yet and he told her that they hadn't and that they'd get in touch with her as soon as they had. The police got me a fish supper which was the first time I'd ever had one. Then someone took me to a children's home in Montrose. I don't know who it was and I don't remember the name of the home.
32. Miss Morgan later came to the home in Montrose with Mrs JCT and they were saying things like we had just got off on the wrong foot and that we could start again from the beginning. I didn't tell Miss Morgan what I'd told the police doctor but she must have known. She didn't ask to speak to me on my own. Even at that young age I could tell it wasn't going to be alright if I went back to the FWZ-JCT I looked into Mrs JCT's eyes and I could see evil. I knew it was all lies and that I was going to get a hiding when I went back, so I said to Miss Morgan that I would go back but I would just run away again. The decision was then made not to take me back. FEN was with Mrs JCT and Miss Morgan when they came to visit and he went back home with Mrs JCT
33. I think I was in foster care for a couple of years. I was still at primary school when I left the FWZ-JCT
34. I stayed in the children's home in Montrose for about six to eight weeks. I loved it. I remember I got pocket money for the first time. On school nights you had to be in bed by a certain time but we got to stay up later on Fridays and Saturdays. I felt that I was being looked after and I enjoyed it. I wanted to stay there but it was overcrowded and I was taken to Urquhart House in Houston. Miss Morgan came and got me and took me to Urquhart House in a car.



**Urquhart House, Houston, Renfrewshire**

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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#### **Life after being in care**

74. I was taken to the couple's house in [REDACTED] and was told that this was my new digs. I had never met them before. I don't remember their names. They were a nice couple. My breakfast was made for me when I got up in the morning and my meals were ready when I came home from work. Their two daughters had been killed on holiday abroad and they were looking to fill a void in their life. They thought they could do that by taking somebody in, but I wasn't that person. They couldn't understand why I came in from work, ate dinner, went out, came back in, had something to eat and then went to bed. They wanted me to sit in with them and play happy families, but I couldn't relate to that because I had never experienced it.
75. All of a sudden I had these people being nice and wanting to spend time with me and I couldn't relate to it. Maybe if I had been introduced to them slowly, spending days out with them at first or weekends at theirs, it could have worked. But I just wasn't prepared for that. They had brought up their two daughters, who they adored, and

then they got me. I have never understood why Miss Morgan put me there. It wasn't fair on that nice couple. I could have been a ticking time bomb for them.

76. I wasn't there very long and then Miss Morgan came back and took me to live in an old woman's house at [REDACTED] Johnstone. I was still only fifteen. The woman was called [REDACTED]. Her son, his wife, their son and daughter, and a police man all lived in the house. I shared a room with her grandson. [REDACTED] let me do what I wanted. She hardly ever saw me and she was quite happy with that. There was always food on the table for me, but I paid for everything myself. I paid my digs and bought my own clothes from my wages. I didn't get any financial help from social services. I never saw Miss Morgan again, or anyone else from social services. I had to teach myself everything.
77. I worked with the building company for two and a half years. They treated me well enough. I remember the foreman used to try and set me up with women but I didn't have a clue. I then joined the army when I was seventeen. I did six years, was out for three and then went back in again. I did sixteen years in total.
78. Life in the army was the same as in care, it was just survival. I did my sixteen weeks training as a seventeen-year-old and was in with grown men. You were not allowed contact with any civilians in the first six weeks. I got "duty doings", shouted out, and was made to do press-ups in puddles and bunny-hop with full combat gear on up long winding roads. To me, it was just a natural progression in the care system. I could handle it. I could make a bed and get up at 6:00 am, whereas a lot of guys struggled with the regime.
79. The army let me down big style. I did five tours of Northern Ireland and was involved in gun battles, riots, the works. When I left, I got a medical and when I said I was alright, they basically said, 'Cheerio, then'.
80. I met my wife, [REDACTED] when I was home on leave from Singapore and we married in 1975. We went on to have three boys and a girl and I've now got seven grandchildren. All of my children are doing well. They're all employed and have their

own houses. I don't think my childhood experiences affected my ability to be a good parent. [REDACTED] and I learned together how to bring up our kids.

### *Family*

81. When I was fifteen, I found out from an auntie that my mum was staying in a flat in [REDACTED] in Glasgow. She was staying with a guy who sold newspapers on the street. I went to see her and she was crying and said that she was sorry for everything. This was the first time I had seen her since I was in Quarriers. She asked me what I was doing and I told her I was an apprentice bricklayer. She said to me that I should get a job in Glasgow and move in with her so she could try and make things right. I thought about doing it. I then took [REDACTED] up to see her and she was absolutely steaming when she answered the door. She just talked a lot of rubbish. I told [REDACTED] that I wasn't going back after that. I don't know if he ever went back.
82. My mother died in 1975 when I was on my second tour of Northern Ireland. I didn't go to her funeral because I was told that the time off would count as my "Rest and Recuperation (R&R)" and I wanted to save my R&R for the birth of my son who was due in [REDACTED] that year.
83. I didn't keep in regular contact with [REDACTED] and FEN [REDACTED] when I left Urquhart House. I would pop in to see them now and again. They both joined the army as well. Although we were in the same regiment, we had our different roles so we didn't really have much contact with each other.
84. I talk to FEN [REDACTED] but I don't see [REDACTED] now. He ended up with mega problems and is in a bad way. His problems all started because of the care system. He's in [REDACTED] sheltered housing in Edinburgh. My sister-in-law was a social worker there and she tracked him down. He became very aggressive and threatened to hit her. One of the guys who works in the sheltered housing place had to step in. My sister-in-law told the guy that [REDACTED]'s brothers wanted to try and reunite with him and he took our contact details and said he would pass them on to [REDACTED]. That was about fifteen years ago but he's never been in touch.

85. I met my brother [REDACTED] once in about 1980. He was an adult by this time and was living in a place in Aberdeen where he seemed to be getting everything he needed. He was well-groomed and the place where he lived gave him the opportunity to take part in all the hobbies he enjoyed. But social services wanted him to live in a family environment and wanted me to take him. I don't remember [REDACTED] as a child so it felt like I was meeting him for the first time. My wife and I had two young sons at this time and I felt that it was quite a lot to ask of us. It wouldn't have been right to ask my wife to do that.

### Impact

86. I have suffered from anxiety, depression and anger issues. I've been prescribed antidepressants since about 1990 and have been told that I will be on them for the rest of my days. I was referred for counselling in 1990.
87. I saw the counsellor just the one time. I told him that sometimes when I spoke to people, I would hear wee voices telling me to "stick the head" on guys I was talking to because they were talking rubbish. When folk were getting on my nerves, I would hear things like, "punch him". The counsellor wanted me to tell him about my feelings of aggression, and he asked me to write down how I felt in the morning when I got up, and when I got angry and what made me angry. He gave me a relaxation tape to play at night and I was taking everything he was saying on board, until he ruined it by asking me to bring in a blank tape next time I saw him because he had to pay for the tapes himself. I never went back to see him after that.
88. [REDACTED]  
 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
 [REDACTED]  
 Secondary Institutions - When I was involved in gun battles in the army, I didn't think about it, I just ran to the gunfire. That was down to the army training but also the fact that I just didn't care. I didn't think I would reach the age of forty. People have said that to me. I remember meeting a guy I used to know when I was younger and the



first thing he said to me was that he thought I'd be dead by now. Whenever anything kicked off, I was always first in there. It was all a farce. I wasn't that brave. I was just putting on a front.

89. The army never prepared me for "civvy" street. They took me in, fed, watered and trained me but they never deprogrammed me when I came back out. When I came out, I was working with the police and I reached a crisis point and was referred to occupational health. This was around 1998. They arranged for me to see a counsellor in Glasgow University. I was off work again with stress and depression and was referred for counselling a second time with a woman in Coylton. I had six appointments with her. I found this helpful. She basically asked me questions and at the end of it, she said that I had been living as two people. I was living as the person the army saw me as, this hard man always fighting, drinking and all the rest of it. But on the other side, there was this boy who just had no chance.
90. I had an annual medical with the territorial army when I was fifty. I had just come back from Iraq. I saw a doctor in Glasgow and I told him that I suffered from anxiety and depression. I had never disclosed that before. The territorial army then arranged for me to see a psychiatrist up in Edinburgh. It turned out that he had been in Singapore when I was there and we just spent our time talking about the good old days, "when the army was the army". He basically said that I was okay and it was the ones round about me that were not right.
91. I had basically buried my time in care. I wasn't interested in the past. I started to think about it more after my wife died in 2013. My wife was my crutch and when I lost her, I had a lot more time on my hands to think about things. I remember hearing about child abuse on the radio one day and I just started crying. I went to see my GP and I am now under regular review.
92. I'm fine on the anti-depressants. They've helped with my anger. I'm more weepy now than angry. My medication was changed about two years ago. A new tablet came out and they wanted me to try it. I was taking two tablets a day and the dosage was 450 mg a day. I've now been able to reduce it to 75 mg.

93. I never got a proper education in secondary school and I left with no qualifications. The second year was not too bad when I got moved up a class, but they were too far ahead of me. None of the people that were supposedly responsible for me in care ever encouraged me or took an interest in my education.

### **Reporting of abuse**

94. I never reported to anyone what happened to me, except for the time when I ran away from the FWZ-JCT and told the police at Brechin police station.

### **Records**

95. I've never applied to get a copy of my care records. I think I would be interested to see what they say. I've been given contact details for Future Pathways and they are currently assisting me to obtain my records.

### **Hopes for the Inquiry**

96. Secondary Institutions - to be published later I would like to think that children in care are treated better now.
97. I think also that children in care should have somebody they can speak to. I had nobody. I should have been able to approach that Miss Morgan. There were no phones in those days but she should have been visiting to make sure I was alright. She must have known that I was being abused at the FWZ-JCT and she still wanted me to go back there. She is the main culprit. She wasn't there for us and I blame her for everything. I hope that children nowadays are involved in the discussions about where they should live and are believed when they tell someone how they're being treated.

98. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed.....  
Dated.....

FWY

04/12/19